(b) if so what are the steps contemplated to redress the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

Bauxite Mining project of the Bharat Aluminium company at Gandhamardhan hill in Orissa

1265. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining project of the Bharat Aluminium Company at Gandhamardhan Hill in Orissa is in trouble due to the attitude of the Orissa Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to end the controversy and to settle matters with the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) (a) No Sir.

(b) The work on the Project has been held up due to local agitation since December 1985. On the suggestion of the Govt. of Orissa, an expert committee headed by Dr. B. D. Nagchoudhuri was appointed by the Govt. of India. After an in-depth study of the impact of the proposed development of Gandhamardhan Bauxite Project on ecology and environment of the area, the expert committee, *inter alia* recommended that the "bauxite mines in Gandhamardhan Hills be opened with as little de lay as possible." The Commitee also recommended to set up an Environmental Management Authority (E.M.A.) to ensure proper environmental protection measures The E.M.A. has been set up and it has met on three occasions. There is no controversy involving the State Govt. *vis-a-vis* the execution of the Project. Efforts are being made to resume work on the Project with the co-operation of the State Government.

Unauthorised use of scarce Newsprint

1266. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found unauthorised use of scare newsprint which includes black marketing and falsification of circulation figures by M/s. Indian Express Group of Newspapers; and

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of investigations and the steps taken to prevent such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) During a check of circulation, some instances of loan of newsprint by one publication of the Group to another have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) Appropriate action as per rules is being considered.

Exploitation of women workers in unorganised sector

1267. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether women in the un-organised sector are being exploited mostly, with maximum work being extracted from them with minimum wages; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government ensure fair wages to these women workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (MWA) and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 (ERA), apply to employments in the unorganised sector as well. While the MWA provides for the fixation and payment of minimum wages in scheduled employments, the ERA provides for the payment of equal wages to men and women for the same work or work of a

similar nature. Action on specific cases of violation of the provisions of these Acts are to be taken by the appropriate Governments as rovided in the resective Acts.

Crisis in Electronic Arc-furnace industry

1268. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electronic arc-furance industry is facing an acute shortage of raw-materials; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to ensure supply of raw material including imported scrap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Steel Melting Scrap the only raw material used by electric are furnace units, which is in short supply indigenously. Adequate quantities of imported steel melting scraps are being made available to ensure that this industry does not face raw material shortage.

Pace of tribal development programmes

1269. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of tribal development programmes in several States and Union Territories is very slow; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to safeguard the interests of the tribals and to ensure their economic upliftment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) While there has been good progress in implementation of tribal development programmes in the country, a lot more remains to be done.

(b) The programmes for tribal development in the States are reviewed periodically and the State Governments advised to take appropriate corrective action so as to ensure that the benefits of the development schemes reached the tribals. The flow of funds from the State Plan to Tribal sub-Plan as well as the quantum of Special Central Assistance released for tribal development have increased ever the years. A part of Special Central Assistance is also specifically allotted for compact area programme and for schemes benefiting primitive tribes and other vulnerable groups among tribals.

Study team for real causes behind the decreasing returns

1270. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in comparison to other Government Departments, e.g. Railways, Defence, Posts, the productivity level, based on PLB of the Government of India Presses is going down year after years;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a study team to find out the real causes behid the decreasing return; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The assessment of productivity of Government of India Presses during a particular year for the purpose of PLB made comparing it with the base year. It is a fact that in the Government of India Presses, productivity has been lesser than the base year 1976-77 during the years for which PLB has been paid to workers.

(b) and (c) A study team has already studied the working of the Government of India Presses and has suggested measures like better maintenance of machines, training of the operatives, timely and adequate supply of paper etc. to improve productivity. Steps have been taken/are being taken to improve productivity of the presses.